

MINUTES

LEXINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL February 11, 2003

Lexington County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2003, in Council Chambers, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Carrigg presided; Mr. Jeffcoat gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members attending:	John W. Carrigg, Jr.	Bruce E. Rucker
	William C. Billy Derrick	Jacob R. Wilkerson
	Johnny W. Jeffcoat	Joseph W. Joe Owens
	M. Todd Cullum	

Absent: George H. Smokey Davis*

*Mr. Davis was absent due to his mother's illness.

Also attending: Art Brooks, County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Deputy County Administrator; Katherine Doucett, Personnel Director/Deputy County Administrator; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Employee Recognition - Art Brooks, County Administrator - Jerry Ellis, Pelion Convenience Station, Solid Waste Management, was commended by a citizen stating that he and his wife use the Pelion Convenience Station regularly and Jerry is the best attendant they have seen at any of the stations.

Kimmie Burris, GIS/Analyst Cartographer I, Assessor's office, was commended by a citizen for her help and kindness in getting a correction handled involving a property deed.

Employee of Third Quarter - Nominees - Fred McManus, Sheriff's Department; Pat Thompson, Information Services. Mr. Brooks stated that Master Deputy McManus has been with the Sheriff's Department since 1989 and went out of his way to help a stranded motorist from Conway whose car broke down in the county on a cold night. Deputy McManus tried to fix the car but when he could not, he offered to pay the costs for the motorist and his seven year old daughter to stay the night at a hotel. Deputy McManus made sure that the family had a way to return to Conway the next morning.

Pat Thompson has been employed with the County since 1976 and is currently the Computer Operations Coordinator for the Information Services Division. Mr. Brooks stated that Pat was diligent in checking tax notice contents and found a DMV error regarding the tax due date which affected 404 tax notices. Pat's attention to detail and quality control saved the County the cost of

having to print and mail corrected notices as well as handling calls from citizens.

Employee of Fourth Quarter - Jesse DeFrance, Michelle Horton, Brian Currence. Mr. Brooks stated that Jesse DeFrance is an Engineering Associate with the Public Works Department. He stated that on his way to a job site inspection in the Ballentine/White Rock area, Jesse noticed an elderly woman walking alone on the side of the road. He turned around, went back and picked her up and asked if he could take her home. The woman told Jesse that she lived in Orangeburg. Jesse convinced her to let him take her to the Lowman Home. Once there, everyone realized that the woman had wandered off from the Lowman Home.

Michele Horton, Deputy/Patrol First Class, Sheriff's Department, was traveling down Highway 302 towards South Lake Drive, saw smoke coming out of the rear of a building and quickly stopped to investigate. The owner of the business, Elaine Gartman, her daughter, Paula Keisler and two juveniles were in the building and were not aware of the fire. Deputy Horton was able to get everyone out of the building before the fire and smoke got too bad. The business sustained severe fire, smoke and water damage.

Brian Currence, Lt. Asst. Regional Commander, Sheriff's Department, was responsible for initially spotting that a state employee had two driver's licenses. The state employee was also driving with a suspended license. The state's investigation uncovered alleged inappropriate actions by employees in two state agencies and may not have occurred had it not been for Lt. Currence.

Fred McManus was selected as the employee of the Third Quarter; Jesse DeFrance as employee of the Fourth Quarter.

Resolutions - A motion was made by Mr. Derrick and seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat that the Resolutions commending Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Mr. Clay Bingham and Ms. Liz Smith; and that the Lexington County Peach Festival Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor: Mr. Carrigg Mr. Derrick
 Mr. Jeffcoat Mr. Rucker
 Mr. Wilkerson Mr. Owens
 Mr. Cullum

Presentation of Resolution/Dennis Lanier - Councilman Bruce E. Rucker - Mr. Carrigg noted that the presentation would be delayed until a later date.

Appointments - Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority - A motion was made by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat that Mr. Tommy Windsor be appointed. Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor: Mr. Carrigg Mr. Wilkerson
 Mr. Jeffcoat Mr. Rucker

Mr. Derrick
Mr. Cullum

Mr. Owens

Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority - Mr. Owens stated that Chairman Davis asked he and Mr. Cullum to recommend a nominee for the board. A motion was made by Mr. Owens and seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat that Mr. Tom Locklair be appointed.

Mr. Wilkerson stated that the previous motion filled the seat on the board.

Mr. Owens stated that he and Mr. Cullum were asked to come up with a nominee for the board.

Mr. Carrigg stated that the previous motion was to appoint an individual to the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority.

A motion was made by Mr. Derrick to reconsider the previous motion so that Council could possibly take action on the motion on the floor.

Mr. Owens withdrew his motion pending clarification; Mr. Jeffcoat withdrew his second.

Mr. Carrigg opened the floor for motions.

A motion was made by Mr. Derrick that Council reconsider the motion to appoint Tommy Windsor.

No second was received; the motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Rucker stated that Council has always asked for background information on nominees.

Mr. Wilkerson stated that Mr. Windsor had served previously on a board and a nomination form was on file.

Mr. Rucker stated that Mr. Owens and Mr. Cullum may not have been aware of having to submit the form.

Mr. Derrick stated that the county only had one seat to fill on the RTA.

Mr. Owens stated that he did not have a problem with Mr. Windsor serving; that he did what he was asked to do.

Mr. Carrigg apologized, that it did not occur to him that the previous motion was to appoint someone to the RTA Board. Mr. Wilkerson stated that he did not either.

Mr. Jeffcoat stated that he did not think it would be difficult to honor the motion made by Mr. Owens if contact was made with Central Midlands.

Bids/Purchases/RFPs - Law Enforcement - Jail Commissary and Trust Fund Management Services - A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat and seconded by Mr. Rucker that the RFP for Jail Commissary and Trust Fund Management Services be awarded to Swanson Inmate Commissary Services. Swanson to pay the County 27.15% commission on net commissary sales using a menu based on fair market prices offered to the inmates; estimated annual revenues from Commissary sales - \$400,000.

Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	

Chairman's Report - Mr. Carrigg reminded everyone of the 16th Annual SCAC Mid-Year Conference, February 18-19, Embassy Suites Hotel.

Administrator's Report - Mr. Brooks introduced Ms. Leslie Harper, the newly appointed Hampton County Administrator, who wanted to attend the meeting to observe.

Budget Amendment Resolutions - None.

Zoning Amendments - Zoning Text Amendment T03-02 - Article 12, Chapter 2, Section 122.00 - Creation of the Board - Announcement of 1st Reading - Mr. Carrigg announced first reading of Zoning Text Amendment T03-02.

Committee Reports - Planning and Administration, B. Rucker, Chairman - Zoning Map Amendment M02-09 - Winters - 5162 Backman Avenue - Mr. Rucker reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, January 28, to discuss Zoning Map Amendment M02-09. The applicant, Jason Winters, requested that 5162 Backman Avenue be reclassified from Residential Local Four (RL4) to Local (L) in order to store cars on the property. Mr. Winters indicated on the application that no scrapping or dismantling of cars would be done on the site.

The public hearing was held on January 14, 2003 and several residents and property owners along Backman Road expressed their opposition to the request.

The Planning Commission considered the application on January 16, 2003, and recommended that it be denied.

Mr. Rucker stated that it was the recommendation of the Planning and Administration Committee that based on all the information submitted, Zoning Map Amendment M02-09 be denied.

A motion was made by Mr. Rucker and seconded by Mr. Derrick that the Committee Report be adopted and Zoning Map Amendment M02-09 be denied.

Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	

Economic Development, J. Jeffcoat, Chairman - Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance - Cluster Analysis Study - Mr. Jeffcoat reported that the committee met on January 28 and received a request from Mike Briggs, Executive Director, Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance, for Lexington County to participate in a public/private funding arrangement to engage in a cluster analysis study.

Mr. Jeffcoat stated that the Committee voted to recommend to Council that the County participate by appropriating \$17,500 for FY 02-03 and \$17,500 be included in the budget process through Economic Development for FY 03-04.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat and seconded by Mr. Cullum that the Committee report be adopted and \$17,500 be appropriated for FY 02-03 and \$17,500 be included in the budget process through Economic Development for FY 03-04.

Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Owens
Opposed:	Mr. Wilkerson	

Justice, J. Carrigg, Chairman - Law Enforcement - Grant Application - Project Safe Neighborhoods - Mr. Carrigg reported that during the afternoon Justice Committee meeting the members considered a grant application for the Sheriff's Department for Project Safe Neighborhoods. He stated that no match is required. Mr. Carrigg added that the Sheriff's Department has indicated that if the program becomes productive and self-sustaining the position would be retained, otherwise, the position would likely only exist for the grant period.

Mr. Carrigg stated that the committee voted to recommend to Council that the Sheriff's Department be allowed to submit the grant application for Project Safe Neighborhoods.

A motion was made by Mr. Carrigg and seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat that the committee report be approved and the grant application for Project Safe Neighborhoods be submitted. Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Owens

Mr. Cullum

Health & Human Services, J. Wilkerson, Chairman - Fire Service - Staffing Reallocation Request - Mr. Wilkerson stated that the Health and Human Services Committee met during the afternoon to consider a staffing reallocation request submitted by Chief Rawl, Fire Service.

Chief Rawl requested that one Firefighter position be upgraded to Apparatus Operator; add two Apparatus Operator positions; eliminate one Chief's position; reduce part time scheduling. This would allow increasing staffing in rural areas which will be assigned to a station for designated periods and then rotate to another station. These positions will also serve as floaters between stations to provide staffing due to absences, i.e., sick leave, annual leave, training, etc.

Staffing Plan (includes two Apparatus Operator positions approved in the FY 02-03 budget) - one Apparatus Operator Hollow Creek/Gilbert; one Apparatus Operator Sandy Run/Swansea; one Apparatus Operator Boiling Springs/Pelion/Mack Edisto; one Apparatus Operator Samaria/Fairview; one Apparatus Operator Amicks Ferry/Cross Roads.

Mr. Wilkerson stated that the committee voted to recommend that Council approve the staffing reallocation for Fire Service as requested by Chief Rawl.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mr. Rucker that the Committee Report be adopted and the staffing reallocation request as submitted by Chief Rawl and as outlined above be approved.

Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	

Fire Service - Bids - Pumpers & Tankers - Mr. Wilkerson reported that also considered during the committee meeting were bids received on two (2) 750 GPM Tankers and two (2) 1,500 GPM Pumpers. He stated that based on the recommendation of Ellis Gammons, Fleet Services Manager, the Committee voted to recommend that Council accept the bid of Slagle's Fire Equipment Company for the Freightliner Cab and Chassis with Caterpillar engine for a total cost of \$894,839.40. Mr. Wilkerson also stated that by using Community Development Block Grant funds, the County would have to follow the requirements of conducting a public hearing which required a 30 day comment period, those comments would be considered and staff will make a recommendation whether to move forward with the budget amendment.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mr. Rucker that the Committee report be adopted to purchase the pumpers and tankers from Slagle's Fire Equipment Company for a total cost of \$894,839.40 and that the CD Block Grant requirements be followed.

Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Derrick

Mr. Jeffcoat
Mr. Cullum

Mr. Owens

EMS - Proposed Staffing Plan - Mr. Wilkerson stated that the committee also considered an EMS Staffing Plan proposed by Tom Gross. He reported that the proposal would gradually replace all existing 24-hour EMS shifts with 12-hour shifts. He stated that Mr. Gross indicated that by changing the shift hours, the County would be more competitive with surrounding areas, could retain employees and also attract potential employees.

Mr. Wilkerson reported that the committee voted to recommend to Council that the staffing proposal submitted by Mr. Gross be approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkerson and seconded by Mr. Cullum that the committee report be adopted and the proposal as outlined by Mr. Gross be approved.

Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Owens	

Presentations - Jack Claypoole, Executive Director, Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council - Mr. Carrigg stated that Mr. Claypoole was unable to attend and would be rescheduled at a later date.

Old Business/New Business - None.

Executive Session/Legal Briefing - A motion was made by Mr. Rucker and seconded by Mr. Derrick that Council go into executive session to receive the legal briefing and discuss contractual matters.

Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	

Mr. Carrigg reconvened Council in open session.

Mr. Carrigg reported that while in executive session Council received the legal briefing, discussed a contractual matter and a personnel matter. One motion was to be considered.

Matters Requiring a Vote as a Result of Executive Session - Harbison Property Sales Agreement - A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat and seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that Council extend the due diligence date on the Harbison Boulevard Property to April 15, 2003.

Mr. Carrigg opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor: Mr. Carrigg Mr. Jeffcoat
 Mr. Wilkerson Mr. Rucker
 Mr. Derrick Mr. Owens
 Mr. Cullum

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy K. Black
Clerk

John W. Carrigg, Jr.
Vice Chairman